

## Today's News - Tuesday, March 31, 2009

- Preservationists see a possible silver lining for historic buildings in the economic downturn.
- Ancient Chinese homes to be recycled into a luxury boutique hotel near Shanghai.
- UKGBC urges Living walls and green roofs to bring wildlife back to urban settings.
- A (cool) rooftop farm in Los Angeles.
- McDonough takes his message to London: Architects are creating toxic "killing machines."
- Concrete remixed and tweaked to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide (and clean the air).
- Icon's McGuirk comes down hard on Prince Charles's Poundbury firehouse: the "Parthenon-meets-Brookside hybrid is architectural dabbling of the worst kind."
- Fordham University's Lincoln Center campus master plan re-do meets with "qualified thumbs-up."
- An eyeful of Tiger Woods' new golf resort in Mexico - designed by home-grown masters.
- Heathcote on the history of "faces" in façades (with a slide show that will surely make you smile).
- Hess calls FLW's Fawcett house a "masterful and unorthodox design" that "may yet show us a way into the future" (great slide show - and it's still up for sale).
- HOK Sport re-brands as Populous (can you trademark an adjective?).
- HDR Architecture allies with Canada's G+G Partnership Architects.
- Calls for entries: Helsinki's Low2No Sustainable Development Design Competition; and San Francisco Botanical Garden Gondwana Circle.

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**How Will Historic Buildings Fare During the Recession?** ...historic preservation has been hit hard by the economic downturn...But preservationists do see a possible silver lining: some historic buildings that might otherwise have been torn down because of rampant development may escape the wrecking ball. -- National Trust for Historic Preservation; Beyer Blinder Belle; Chattel Architecture- Architectural Record

**Old homes for new hotel:** Winston Lim...collects the classical timber structures, which date back more than 300 years to the Ming and Qing dynasties...he has grand plans...to incorporate the houses into his upcoming luxury boutique hotel in Zhu Jia Jiao town near Shanghai. [images]- Asia One (Singapore)

**Living walls and green roofs pave way for biodiversity in new building:** Otters could return to urban rivers, bats could roost under bridges, swifts could flock to office blocks and peregrine falcons soar above cathedrals under recommendations from the UK Green Building Council (UKGBC) -- Grimshaw- Guardian (UK)

**Alexis Rochas' rooftop farm in Los Angeles:** Plough lines in metal decorate the rooftop of a former Holiday Inn...now a roof garden...dedicated to edible plants. [images]- Icon (UK)

**Architects are creating toxic 'killing machines':** Sustainability expert William McDonough warns of over-focusing on carbon neutrality...not considering the toxicity of the materials used in buildings...comments were hailed by some British experts but greeted with caution by the UK Green Building Council.- BD/Building Design (UK)

**Concrete Is Remixed With Environment in Mind:** A product relatively unchanged for two centuries is being tweaked to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide.- New York Times

**Op-Ed: Prince Charles's Poundbury fire station is a daft mess:** This royally-appointed, Parthenon-meets-Brookside hybrid is architectural dabbling of the worst kind...it's a superb creation: a dumpy neoclassical Georgian palace with three garage doors attached to it. By Justin McGuirk/Icon magazine [images, links]- Guardian (UK)

**Fordham Rising:** Deal struck for controversial Lincoln Center campus expansion...So far, the scheme has been met with a qualified thumbs-up...Though public debate has focused on total square footage and height, size is only part of the equation... -- Cooper, Robertson & Partners [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

**Swinging Design:** Tiger Woods' new golf resort in Mexico taps local architectural talent...Punta Brava...\$100 million residential development...just south of Ensenada...set within the area's rugged coastal terrain. -- Legorreta + Legorreta; ABAX Architecture; A5 arquitectura [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

**The human metaphor:** ...the façade...can be welcoming as well as a warning. But it is, either way, very closely related to humanity and always a little bit alive...What is most enticing about the idea of the face of a house is that it allows us to see the house behind as the mind. By Edwin Heathcote -- Frederico Zuccari; Antoni Gaudí; Adolf Loos; Imre Makovecz [slide show]- Financial Times (UK)

**Frank Lloyd Wright's Los Banos ranch house affirms balance of life with nature:** The Fawcett house is a masterful and unorthodox design — one of the best houses from the last decade of Wright's life...Wright, dead for half a century, may yet show us a way into the future. By Alan Hess [slide show]- Mercury News (California)

**HOK Sport rebrands as Populous**- BD/Building Design (UK)

**HDR Architecture allies with Canada's G+G Partnership Architects to strengthen joint healthcare practice**- Building Design & Construction (BD&C)

**Call for entries/Request for Qualifications (RFQ):** Low2No Sustainable Development Design Competition: a large building complex on a reclaimed harbour at the western edge of Helsinki's central business district; deadline: April 22- Sitra Finnish Innovation Fund / City of Helsinki

**Call for entries:** San Francisco Botanical Garden Society Gondwana Circle; registration deadline: August 31 - San Francisco Botanical Garden

-- I.M. Pei Architect: Museum of Islamic Art, Al Corniche, Doha, Qatar

-- Experimental Urban Vision: Huaxi City Centre, Guiyang, Southwestern China -- Atelier Manferdini; BIG; Dieguez Fridman; Emergent/Tom Wiscombe; HouLiang Architecture; JDS; Mass Studies; Rojkind Arquitectos; Serie; Sou Fujimoto Architects; MAD

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